

REMARKS

The Office Action of July 20, 2011 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 1-11 are currently pending, and claim 1 is in independent form. By way of this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended and claims 12-20 have been added. New claims 12 and 16 are independent.

Interview of November 17, 2011

The Applicants would like to thank Examiner Choi for the courtesies extended to the Applicants' representative during the telephonic interview of November 17, 2011. During the interview, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) were discussed. Specifically, a feature of the present invention was discussed regarding the use of the reproducing period to identify lyrical data from at least two lyrical data files related to different versions of digital audio files having in common at least a portion of ID tag information. It was explained that, in this way, the reproducing period may be used to identify unique lyric data for a specific version of an audio file in the circumstances where there are multiple audio files (with corresponding lyrical data) that need to be distinguished based on playback length. The Examiner indicated that such an amendment would likely overcome the rejections, but that an additional search may need to be completed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0031066 to Meyer (hereinafter "the Meyer publication") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0266337 to Radcliffe (hereinafter "the Radcliffe publication"), and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0019608 to Obrador (hereinafter "the Obrador publication").

The Radcliffe publication, specifically paragraphs [0029] and [0031], only teaches the synchronization of lyrics to an audio file and does not teach or suggest the identification of lyrical data for a particular audio file. Further, the cited portions of the Radcliffe publication only reference segments of lyrics, not entire sets of lyrics. As evidenced

by at least paragraph [0016] of the Radcliffe publication, the lyrics are already contained within or are otherwise a part of the audio file. The audio files in the Radcliffe publication must be specially created to contain lyrics. Therefore, there is no need to identify lyrics associated with the audio file because the audio files are limited to audio files that already contain lyric information. The present invention, by contrast, is directed to *providing* lyrical data for digital audio files.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the functionality of the present invention regarding how the lyrical data is retrieved. Specifically, the lyrical data is identified from at least two lyrical data files related to different versions of digital audio files having in common at least a portion of ID tag information. Support for this amendment may be found in at least FIG. 7 (showing multiple versions of songs having a common title) and paragraph [0032] (since the reproducing time period is used to identify the lyrical data suitable for the audio file, the lyrical data is exactly synchronized with the voice of the singer), and paragraphs [0035]-[0038] of the published application.

The length of the digital audio file distinguishes the digital audio file from other digital audio files having in common at least a portion of the tag information associated with the digital audio file. As discussed with the Examiner during the interview, this feature of the claimed invention allows for the reproducing period to be used to identify unique lyric data for a specific version of an audio file in circumstances in which there are multiple audio files (with corresponding lyrical data) that need to be distinguished based on playback length. For example, a particular song may have lyrical data for an album version and a live version, or have otherwise common identification information. Thus, the present invention solves a problem in the art in which multiple versions of songs may be similarly titled but have different playback times and thus different corresponding lyrical tracks.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2-11 depend from and add further features to claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to claim 1.

New Claims 12-20:

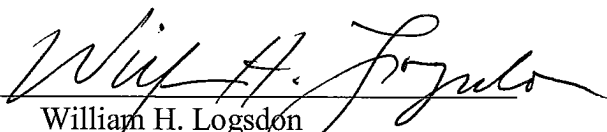
New claims 12-20 have been added to further define the claimed invention and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed with regard to claims 1-11. The above-discussed feature regarding the use of the reproducing time period of a digital audio file to identify lyrical data, as discussed with the Examiner during the interview, is also incorporated into new independent claims 12 and 16. Specifically, claims 12 and 16 specify that the length of the digital audio file distinguishes the digital audio file from other digital audio files having in common at least a portion of the tag information associated with the digital audio file. Claims 13-15 and 17-20 depend from and add further features to independent claims 12 and 16 and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, consideration and allowance of claims 12-20 are respectfully requested.

Conclusion:

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that independent claim 1, as amended, and independent claims 12 and 16 are patentable over the prior art and in condition for allowance. Claims 2-11, 13-15, and 17-20 depend from and add further features to claims 1, 12, and 16 and are allowable for at least the reasons discussed herein with regard to those claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-20.

Respectfully submitted,

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